

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-5, 8-11 and 19 are amended, Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice, and Claims 23-28 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 6 and 16-21, inadvertently indicated as Claims 1-22, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bonnstetter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,551,880, herein "Bonnstetter").

Regarding the rejection to Claims 5, 6 and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, the claims are amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. In particular, the outstanding Office Action at page 3, lines 1-3 indicates that Claim 7 is directed to a practical application within the technological arts. In light of this indication, Claim 5 is amended to include the features of Claim 7. Applicant notes that Claims 6 and 16-21 depend from amended independent Claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection to Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the claims are amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. In particular, all occurrences of "reliably" are removed from amended Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 19. Further, applicant notes will-enhancement-factors have at least positive correlation coefficients and that a desired number of will-enhancement factors may be selected. For example, the factor having the correlation coefficients greater than a predetermined positive

value such as 0.15 may be selected. Also, a predetermined number of factors having the largest and subsequent correlation coefficients from the candidates may be selected.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection to Claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the claims are amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. In particular, all occurrences of "the work" are replaced with --work-- in amended Claims 4, 5 and 8, and all occurrences of "the storage device" are replaced with --storage device-- in amended Claims 3 and 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(as) as unpatentable over Bonstetter et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a selection system for selecting factors contributing to enhance target people's will to achieve results from a plurality of candidates of factors that includes selecting factors contributing to enhance the target people's will to achieve results, from a plurality of candidates of factors, in a case where a calculated correlation coefficient is equal to or larger than a reference value.

Similarly, amended independent Claim 4 recites a selection system for selecting factors contributing to enhance target people's will to achieve results from a plurality of candidates of factors. Additionally, amended independent Claims 5 and 8 recite a method and a program, respectively, that include selecting, from a plurality of candidates of factors, factors contributing to enhance people's will to achieve results. Finally, amended independent Claim 9 recites a system that includes determining properties of each of target people which are related to selected factors based on an evaluation value numerically representing a response to each of the questions relating to each of the selected factors.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 1, 2A and 3 illustrate that will-enhancement factors are selected from a plurality of factors according to a respondent (step S8). A terminal (12-i or 15-j) receives a questionnaire and displays a first page 100a that includes a plurality of questions 104a that are answered one by one by a respondent, for selecting will-enhancement factors of a plurality of candidates of factors (see also the specification at page 14, lines 3-16; and page 15, lines 19-21). After the questionnaire is completed, a controller selects factors as will-enhancement factors from the plurality of candidates of factors based on the responses to the questionnaire (see also the specification at page 18, lines 8-11).

Bonnstetter does not teach or suggest selecting will-enhancement-factors from candidates of factors. In particular, Bonnstetter does not teach or suggest that factors as will-enhancement factors are selected from candidates of factors by the system itself or how a selection of factors as will-enhancement factors from the plurality of candidates of factors would be accomplished. Instead, Bonnstetter discloses factors that are pre-selected and fixed based on previous studies and validations as to how responses to questionnaires should be weighted for a particular job category (column 3, lines 33-36). These pre-selected behavior factors are then used to analyze a questionnaire to predict the potential for success of the individual for a particular job or task (column 5, lines 22-28).

As stated in M.P.E.P. §2143, a basic requirement for a *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. As the cited references do not teach or suggest the feature of selecting factors from a plurality of candidates of factors, it is respectfully submitted the outstanding Office Action has not created a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to independent Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9, and the claims dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

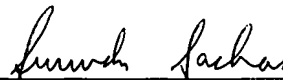
Additionally, amended Claims 5 and 3 further define over the applied art for the additional reason now discussed. Amended Claims 3 and 5 recite an "evaluation value vector that includes a plurality of evaluation values each numerically representing a response to each of the questions related to selected factors as *vector elements*" (emphasis added). Bonnstetter does not teach or suggest an evaluation value vector that includes selected factors as vector elements. Instead, applicant submits that Bonnstetter discloses vectors each representing each factor (column 14). Further, applicant submits that the vectors, as taught by Bonnstetter, are not vectors having will-enhancement-factors as vector factors.

The present response also submits new dependent claims 23-28 for examination. Applicant submits that new Claims 23-28 further define over the applied art because the applied art does not teach or suggest a correlation coefficient that is calculated by dividing a calculated covariance representing work done and an evaluation value by at least one standard deviation value of the work done. Further, the applied art does not teach or suggest that questions are randomly output to prevent artificial answers.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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